major trading partners with a view to ensure that Indian export products conform to the prescribed standards. Export Inspection Council and other authorized agencies inspect and certify that the quality of the export products conform to the SPS requirement and standards of the importing country.

Steps to boost tyres export

*606. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tyre industry has acquired substantial market abroad and export of tyres has grown substantially;

(b) if so, the details of export of tyres during the last three years and the countries which imported Indian tyres; and

(c) the steps being taken to further boost export of tyres?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exports of auto tyres and tubes from India during the last three years are given below :-

Year	Auto Tyres & Tubes Exports (Value/Rs. Crores)	% Growth Over Previous Year/Period
1999-2000 (April-March)	864	6.5%
2000-2001 (April-March)	1164	35%
2001-2002 (April-March)	1165	0.1%
2002-2003 (April-March) (Estimated)	1200	3%

(Source: Capexil)

At present Indian tyres are being exported to over 170 countries. As much as 16% of the exports are to the highly quality conscious and demanding US market. Some of the other major importing countries, with their respective share in tyre imports from India during 2001-2002 were Philippines (5%), UAE (9%), Iran (5%), Bangladesh (7%) and Vietnam (4%).

(c) Some of the initiatives taken by Indian auto tyres and tubes companies include, opening of overseas offices, production arrangements with overseas companies, participation in trade fairs, etc. Through Capexil, an autonomous Export Promotion Council, set up by the Ministry of Commerce, the Government has been implementing the following export promotion activities under Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) programme :–

(i) Grant of financial assistance to exporters to travel abroad for sales cum study tours and for participation in international fairs.

(ii) Grant of financial assistance for taking delegations for Buyer-Seller Meets. Under the Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme the Government has been assisting Capexil to conduct market study and follow-up activities to promote the exports of auto tyres.

(iii) Buyer-Seller Meets were held under "Focus : Africa" and "Focus: Latin American Countries" initiatives and in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Role of small and medium industries in the economy

†*609. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the small and medium scale industries play an important role in the development of the economy of the country;

(b) if so, the average share of the above industries to GDP assessed in Japan, America, England, France, China, etc. *vis-a-vis* Gross Domestic Products; and

(c) the average share of the above industries to GDP in India and the percentage of total number of workers engaged in this sector in the country and also in Japan, America, France, England and China?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) In India the classification of industries as small and medium is not followed. Industries are classified as small scale and non-small scale industries in which medium are clubbed with large industries.

Small Scale Industries (SSIS) do play a vital role in the development of the economy in terms of their contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), exports and employment. SSI units supply a wide range of products, help in wider regional

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.